

# THE BAPTIST Record

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## Speakers, Bible drillers show skills

**By Tony Martin**  
*Associate Editor*

The 2007 Mississippi state Bible Drills and Speaker's Tournament attracted hundreds from across the state for a day of friendly competition April 21 at First Church, Clinton.

Students competing at this level have made it through the preliminary tournaments and face peers who are just as competent and prepared as they are. Much like a sporting event, participants had parents, family, and friends rooting them on. Just as students vie for scholarships while participating in sports in high school, in like fashion scholarships are available and eagerly sought after at this event.



**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS** — Three students won scholarships at during Scholarship Drill. Those students are (from left) Tyler Edwards, Ridgecrest Church, Madison, first place; Andrew Hollingsworth, First Church, Fulton, second place; Derek Davis, Pelahatchie Church, Rankin, third place. Marcus Peagler (right) is discipleship and family ministry director at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by Tony Martin)



**FRIEND OF BIBLE DRILL** — Steve Jackson (right), pastor of McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl, received the Friend of Bible Drill award from Marcus Peagler, discipleship and family ministry director at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by Cortez Hutchinson)

The state Bible Drills and Speaker's Tournament are sponsored each year by the Discipleship and Family Ministries (DFM) Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and are funded by gifts to the Cooperative Program.

The Speaker's Tournament attracted many more participation this year, in part due to extensive promotion. The opportunity to participate is an excellent opportunity for students who want to develop poise, confidence, and grow toward Christian maturity and develop other life skills.

This year's winners include Andrew Hollingsworth, First Church, Fulton, fourth place; Charles Huckaby, Parkway Church, Houston, third place; Emily Tillman, Trinity Church, Philadelphia, second place; and Amber Cockrell, Bethel Church, Louisville, first place.

Speakers Tournament scholarships from Mississippi Baptists' three institutions of higher learning — Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Mississippi College in Clinton, and William Carey University of Hattiesburg — are significant.

The rewards for the high school seniors participating in the Scholarship Drill are no less significant. In order to reach the Scholarship Drill, participants must have been involved in Bible Drills for nine years, be a high school senior, and represent a Mississippi Baptist church that supports the Cooperative Program. Winners in the Scholarship Drill include Tyler Edwards, Ridgecrest Church, Madison, first place; Andrew Hollingsworth, First Church, Fulton, second place; and Derek Davis, Pelahatchie Church, Rankin, third place.

The Junior High Tournament is for seventh, eighth, and ninth graders who represent Mississippi Baptist Churches and who score Superior (making two or less mistakes) in the regular State Drills. The winner of this tournament is invited to participate in Super Summer (if qualified; if not qualified, then Youth Camp) with all expenses paid. The other participants in the final drill are invited to participate in Youth Camp with all camp expenses paid. First, second, and third place winners receive plaques.



**TOP SPEAKERS** — Speaker's Tournament winners include (from left) Andrew Hollingsworth, First Church, Fulton, fourth place; Charles Huckaby, Parkway Church, Houston, third place; Emily Tillman, Trinity Church, Philadelphia, second place; and Amber Cockrell, Bethel Church, Louisville, first place. (Photo by Tony Martin)

Winners in the Junior High Tournament include Jacob Roeland, Good Hope Church, Louisville, first place; Jay Moore, Lena Church, Lena, second place; and Lindsey Boone, Liberty Church, Flowood.

Steve Jackson, pastor of McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl, received the Friend of Bible Drill award.

The purpose of the Youth Bible Drill is to challenge youth to develop skills in using their Bibles — locating books, verses, and passages dealing with doctrinal and ethical concerns.

The Speaker's Tournament is designed to stimulate growth toward Christian maturity, challenging youth to think seriously about their Christian commitment and to express that commitment verbally.

For more information on the drills and tournaments, contact Don Hicks, Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3287 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 287. E-mail: dhicks@mccb.org.



**JUNIOR HIGH TOURNAMENT WINNERS** — Three students were top-place winners in the Junior High Bible Drill Tournament: Tyler Edwards (second from left), Ridgecrest Church, Madison, first place; Andrew Hollingsworth (center), First Church, Fulton, second place; Derek Davis (second from right), Pelahatchie Church, Rankin, third place. Awarding the winners were Glen Shows (left) and Don Hicks (right), consultants in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by Tony Martin)



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# God in the midst of tragedy

**A**nother school year, another school shooting. The massacre last week at Virginia Tech seems especially monstrous, yet with the exception of the affected families we'll get over it just as we have all the others. After the candle lightings and politically-correct memorial services fade from our memory, we'll avert our eyes and go about our business and tune in once again to Desperate Housewives or some such silliness and tune out the desperate world all around us.

Sadly, such self-absorption has become a way of life in modern America. Perhaps if we took just a few minutes to contemplate the great losses involved, we wouldn't be so quick to turn away.

Baptist graduate student Brian Bluhm was just weeks away from graduating with a master's degree in water resources. He was deeply involved with Baptist Collegiate Ministries at

Virginia Tech, which is the equivalent of our Baptist Student Union program in Mississippi.

Senior Jarrett Lane belonged to First Church in Narrows, Va. He attended church faithfully and served every Sunday as an usher. Lane was valedictorian of his high school class and a standout athlete.

Junior Nicole White was a member of Nansemond River Church in Suffolk, Va. She worked with children at the local YMCA and juggled her free time between volunteering at an animal shelter and a shelter for battered women.

Freshman Rachel Hill "was an incredible witness for Christ; the love of Christ



shone through her to others," said Clay Fogler, administrator at Grove Avenue Christian School, a ministry of Grove Avenue Church in Richmond, Va., where she was a star athlete and school leader.

Freshman Lauren McCain was a member of Restoration Church Phoebe in Hampton, Va., and an active member of Campus Crusade for Christ at Virginia Tech. On her MySpace.com page, she listed Jesus Christ and her brother Joel as two of her heroes.

These are only four of the young, promising lives that were snuffed out that morning. While we rejoice that they are with the Lord, their passings came

much too soon and much too violently and robbed the rest of us of their great lifetime potential.

Even in the midst of the great suffering brought on by such a horrific act of violence, God is at work as always. Reports indicate that the Baptist Collegiate Ministries Center at Virginia Tech served as a place of refuge for grieving students and faculty left bereft by the senselessness of the loss.

Mark Appleton, associate Baptist Collegiate Ministries director at Virginia Tech and a Mission Service Corps missionary with the North American Mission Board, said more than 300 students came by the center when word got around that the center would be open for anyone who needed it.

Perhaps the open door to the center was an open door to salvation for one or more of the people who showed up there after the shooting. Perhaps someone was led to ponder their tenuous grip on this earthly life and their own need for salvation through Jesus Christ alone. Perhaps a warm smile and a friendly hug made an eternal difference for someone who really needed it.

Time will tell. In the meantime, let us be reminded of our duty and our joy to tell everyone we meet about the abundance and security of the Christian life. Like these four Baptist students, let us be a shining light on the highest hill to pierce the darkness of this evil, sin-filled world in which we live. Only Christians can do that.

On her MySpace.com page, Lauren McCain wrote about the certainty of her faith. "I don't have to argue religion, philosophy or historical evidence, because I KNOW him."

Would that everyone in her generation one day be able to say that, because of us. Let's get started.

## Creation conference stirs controversy on SMU campus

**DALLAS (BP)** — Science, when done right, points powerfully to a designer whose characteristics "just happen to match the descriptions of the God of the Bible," author and Christian apologist Lee Strobel said during a conference on the theory of Intelligent Design at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas.

Once an avowed atheist and journalist who investigated the evidence for Christianity and creation prior to his conversion, Strobel said all materialistic theories have failed to explain the origin of life or how any part of the universe became habitable.

"The universe is fine-tuned on a razor's edge in a way that defies chance. It is better explained by the existence of a Creator," Strobel said. "It seems logical and rational that, if there is a God, that He would leave evidence behind for us to find Him."

Strobel was joined by noted scientists Stephen Meyer, Jay Richards, and Michael Behe for the *Darwin vs. Design* presentation of the Center for Science & Culture at the Discovery Institute, a Seattle-based group of researchers exploring the worldview implications of science.

The Christian Legal Society at SMU's Dedman Law School sponsored the April 13-14 sessions.

Not everyone, however, welcomed the scientists proposing Intelligent Design. At least three SMU professors lodged protests against the conference, which they claimed would promote a "mystical world view" lacking scientific credibility.

Seven students also protested inside the conference, holding up signs with questions related to Darwinian evolution. SMU police escorted two students out of the conference after the students attempted to move closer to the stage where Strobel, Meyer, Richards and Behe were speaking to an audience of more than 1,500.

An editorial in the daily campus newspaper also lambasted the proponents of Intelligent Design for "preaching a religious message masked in a capsule of pseudoscience."

Behe, known for his groundbreaking book, *Darwin's Black Box*, said he and the other scientists are doing what they were trained to do — that is, ruling nothing out of bounds in the quest for the truth.

Much of the scientific establishment, he said, has nonetheless ruled the ideas of Intelligent Design deficient "as a matter of principle" because they work against the status quo. Many in the scientific community remain loyal to the teachings of Charles Darwin.

"I was told that we were supposed to follow the evidence wherever it leads," said Behe, a professor of biological sciences at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. "Intelligent Design seems to point strongly beyond nature and seems to have philosophical, maybe even theological implications."

"That makes a lot of people nervous, and they think that science should avoid any theory that seems to have such strong extra-scientific implications."

Darwin's Black Box, regarded by WORLD magazine as one of the 100 most important books of the 20th century, dealt a heavy blow to neo-Darwinism when Behe argued for the idea of "irreducible complexity." According to Behe, life is run by thousands of complex "machines" in cells. These machines are designed in such a way that the cell cannot function without any one of its multiple parts.

Design, Behe contends, is not mystical; it is quantitative. The purposeful arrangement of parts in a cell implies design, and even neo-Darwinians — scientists who still hold to evolutionary theory despite modern advances in science that purport to prove the theory false — agree that cells at least "appear to be designed." In the end, however, these scientists claim that the structure of the cell was achieved either by chance or by a combination of chance and necessity, Behe said.

Meyer said cells prove design because they do what even supercomputers cannot do — they produce and transmit trillions of specific bits of information in a "digital" genetic code. Darwin, he said, had no concept of this code — known today as DNA.

"Blind chance is not a significant explanation for the origin of the information in the DNA molecule," Meyer said, claiming that there apparently is no limit to the information DNA can contain. "We don't have anything in nature that can suggest information can arise from undirected processes."

# Christians' deaths tied to Muslim youths

ISTANBUL (BP) — In a gruesome assault against Turkey's tiny Christian community, five young Muslim Turks entered a Christian publishing office in the southeastern province of Malatya April 18 and slit the throats of the three Protestant Christians present.

Two of the victims, Necati Aydin, age 36, and Ugur Yuksel, age 32, were Turkish converts from Islam. The third man, Tilmann Geske, age 46, was a German citizen.

The Turkish press reported that four of the five young men, all 19-20 years of age, admitted during initial interrogations that they were motivated by both "nationalist and religious feelings."

"We did this for our country," an identical note in the pockets of all five young men read, Channel D television station reported. "They are attacking our religion."

According to the *Hurriyet* newspaper, one of the suspects declared during police questioning, "We didn't do this for ourselves. We did it for our religion. May this be a lesson to the enemies of religion."

In a demonstration against the Zirve Publishing office in Malatya two years ago, local protestors had claimed its publishing and distribution activities constituted "proselytism" among Muslims and should be closed down. Turkish law, however, guarantees the right to engage in religious evangelism if it does not contain proven political motives.

The three Christians were found tied hand and foot to



MOURNING LOSS — Supporters of minority rights in Malatya, Turkey, squat on April 19 in front of the Christian publishing house where 3 Christians were murdered the day before in the predominantly Muslim country. A gang of Muslim youths is suspected to be the murderers. (BP photo courtesy of Sezayi Erken/AFP/Getty Images)

chairs in the liaison office of Zirve Publishing in Malatya's Niyazi Misir-i district. Their throats had been cut and their bodies marred by multiple stab wounds.

Both Aydin and Geske were already dead when local police discovered their bodies. Police had received a call from a nearby office in the building about a "disturbance" happening in the Christian publishing house's third-floor office. Although Yuksel was still breathing and

rushed to a nearby hospital for massive blood transfusions, he died soon afterward.

When police stormed the building, one of the killers threw himself from the third story to the street, suffering a broken leg and severe head injuries. The other four suspects were apprehended as they tried to flee the building, still holding their bloodied knives.

Turkish government leaders were quick to denounce the murders and promised a full investigation. The police, meanwhile, fielded conjecture that the suspects were linked to the Turkish Hizbullah, a Kurdish Islamic movement calling for a Muslim state in southeastern Turkey.

According to Zirve Publishing's general manager, Hamza Ozant, the company's Malatya staff had received death threats in recent months. All three of the men worked in

the office and attended the local 30-member Kurtulus Protestant Church pastored by Aydin.

Aydin is survived by his wife Semse and a son and daughter, both preschool age. Geske with his wife Susanne had two sons and a daughter, ages 8-13 years. Yuksel was engaged to be married within a few months.

The deadly attack was the first known martyrdom of Turkish converts from Islam since the founding of the Turkish Republic in 1923, but it was the third tragic incident targeting Christians in Turkey in the past 15 months to spark major international media coverage.

*Editor's note: This article is reprinted courtesy of Compass Direct News, based in Santa Ana, Ca. Compass Direct News provides reports on Christians worldwide who are persecuted for their faith. Used by permission.*

## Ruling applauded

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court's support for a federal ban on partial-birth abortion marks a limited, though important, victory in the campaign to provide legal protection for unborn children, pro-life lawyers said after the ruling's release April 18. In a 5-4 decision, the justices reversed two federal appeals courts and affirmed the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act, making it the first judicially vindicated restriction on a specific procedure since the high court legalized abortion in the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* opinion. The 2003 law prohibits an abortion technique that involves the killing of a nearly totally delivered baby normally in at least the fifth month of pregnancy. "The Roberts Court has taken a positive, modest step in restoring a sense of reason and principle to constitutional adjudication on abortion," said Wendy Long, legal counsel for the Judicial Confirmation Network and former Supreme Court law clerk, on National Review Online. "Liberal pro-abortion extremists no longer have a blank check to railroad over the will of democratic majorities" of Americans. Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Anthony Kennedy voted in the majority. Associates Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, John Paul Stevens, David Souter, and Stephen Breyer opposed the decision. The justices' decision came in two cases, *Gonzales v. Carhart*, an appeal from the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in which the law was invalidated based on its lack of a health exception, and *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood*, out of the Ninth Circuit, which also said the ban imposes an undue burden on women and is too vague. The Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act bars a second- and third-trimester procedure in which, as typically used, an intact baby is delivered feet first until only the head is left in the birth canal. The doctor pierces the base of the infant's skull with surgical scissors before inserting a catheter into the opening and suctioning out the brain, killing the baby. The technique provides for easier removal of the baby's head. The law allows an exception if the mother's life is threatened.

10 years ago

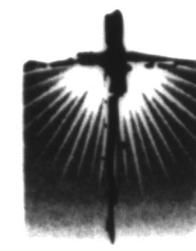
Rory Lee, president of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, is elected president of Louisiana College in Pineville, La.

20 years ago

First Church, Leland, celebrates its centennial as a church body with Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, as keynote speaker. Lunch follows the service with preaching by former pastors.

60 years ago

The director of the National Catholic Welfare Conference bureau of information declares that evangelist Billy Graham is "a danger to the faith of all Catholics who listen to him."



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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## MAKING SENSE OF A MASSACRE

All around the country, the headlines told the story of the worst massacre in our nation's history at Virginia Tech University. The reports of the crime were horrific and heart stopping as the nation learned of the unfolding crime. As the information came over the news, my mind and heart raced from place to place and person to person praying for and wondering about the horror that the kids were going through, the unbelievable maze of death and brokenness that the police and other authorities would be dealing with, the families and friends of students, and the faculty members who had to be living in shock and trying to figure out how to respond. Though I was hundreds of miles away, I felt, no doubt, like millions of others entangled in this crisis. There were all of the questions that continually unfolded — the what, who, and then the ultimate question, why?

Years ago, I heard someone say that why is the easiest question to ask and the hardest question to answer. I have found that to be true. I certainly do not begin to have the answers and certainly, there are no simple answers to be found. Within about 24 hours we had some answers that a young man named Cho, 23, a senior English major from South Korea, had done this terrible thing. We even knew the names of some of the students who had been killed and others who were injured. The question was why? I even heard one person express the inevitable question that many will ask:



### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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# Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

"Why would God allow such a tragedy to take place?"

As I heard that, I thought about an even worse massacre that had taken place many years ago. It happened in what had been a near perfect environment when one-fourth of the earth's population was murdered. You remember it. The tragedy unfolded of the only family on the earth — a mom and dad, Adam and Eve, and their two boys, Cain and Abel. Cain killed his own brother, it was the first massacre of human life. Why did it happen? What went wrong? Why would a person do such a thing? Maybe as we look at that first massacre, we can discover something of the tragedies of all of life.

The first thing I would ask you to consider is that all of the wrongs of others affect us. Sin, the willful disobedience to God's will, is never done in a vacuum. It always has consequences for others. Regardless of the size or shape of the wrong done, it will ultimately have consequences for others. It may be the selfishness and uncaring heart of a parent, an alcohol-drenched mind of a driver, or something as innocent and small as a child choosing to cheat on a test. The wrongdoing

of others has implication for us and impact on us.

A second consideration is for us to remember that our wrongdoing always affects others. Their sin affects us and our sin affects them. One of the frequently ignored aspects of the divorce tragedy in our nation is that people often think that it does not affect the children. It is not unusual to hear someone say something like "The children are resilient. They get over it and go on with their lives." The reality is that they may go on and face the future but not without the scars of a ruptured, broken relationship. It will continue to bear fruit in the way they think, in future relationships, and possibly even in their own marriage. It is a painful, but real dilemma. Our wrong decisions always have consequences for others.

That brings me to consider what went wrong. Whether in the first family, in the family at Virginia Tech, or possibly in our own family something goes wrong in the human heart. For Cain there was anger in his heart about his own situation and so he lashed out against his brother. In Blacksburg, a young man was apparently upset by some unfulfilled desires and possibly broken relationships,

and so he destroyed those around him. Multiple times across our country today, there may be times that people do not get their way and so in both small and large ways they seek to retaliate and inflict pain on others. For those who want to know why God allowed such a thing, it needs to be clearly understood that it was not God's will, but it was the expression of human disagreement with God's will. We cannot ignore human responsibility in the tragedies around us. God's heart was and is continually broken.

We are strange creatures. We want it our way. We want to be the decision makers. We want to be in control, and then we turn around and do not want to accept the responsibility and the ramifications that come with our actions. That is why we proclaim the Good News that comes from heaven announcing to everyone that God loves us so much that in spite of our sins, in spite of our wrongdoing, our errant decisions, and our uncontrolled anger He has made provision for us in Jesus Christ to have hope and a new life. Regardless if it is the crisis that came with Cain, a tragedy on a university campus, or the despair that may exist in a family down the street, Jesus Christ is the answer. For some that sounds simplistic and for others it sounds silly, but for our loving heavenly Father it is the sound of salvation.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

## BSUers take on Bourbon Street for twelfth straight year

By Wayne Vandiver  
Correspondent

The Northeast Mississippi Community College (NEMCC) Baptist Student Union (BSU) in Booneville took its twelfth consecutive Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend mission trip on January 12-15 to Bourbon Street in New Orleans. The purpose is always to hand out Gospel tracts and witness to people on Bourbon Street and in the French Quarter.

There are even tracts printed entitled, How to Get to Heaven from New Orleans.

Thirty-four students and three BSU directors went to New Orleans to share the Gospel with people on this well-known party street. The spirit of cooperation is evident. This year students came from William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Mississippi State University in Hattiesburg, and NEMCC. Students from all Mississippi BSUs are invited to go on this trip.

Besides handing out Gospel tracts, the group also used signs that said, "If you are born once, you will die twice. If you are born twice, you will die once." People on Bourbon Street are hard to talk to most of the time, but the signs appealed to their curiosity.

People stopped in the middle of the street and just stare. Many of them would come over to the sign-bearer and ask what it meant. The BSU student could then share the story of Nicodemus in John 3 where Jesus said, "Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

The French Quarter was not affected by Hurricane Katrina as much as the rest

of New Orleans. Bourbon Street is still booming with people, the majority of whom do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

This annual trip has proven to be a "witnessing laboratory" for the students. Each year students go who have never witnessed to anyone before. After a couple of hours on Bourbon Street, the students have a boldness in sharing that they didn't have when they arrived.

The Holy Spirit uses this situation to teach students some valuable lessons. They come back from Bourbon Street with a higher appreciation of their parents, home, and salvation. They also have their hearts broken over a world they have never encountered before. There is nothing like talking to a person that is so spiritually blind that he cannot seem to understand that Jesus is his only hope.

The students also learn that the Spirit will give them the words they need to say to the person with whom they are speaking. When students return, they admit that witnessing to someone back home will be "a piece of cake" compared to witnessing on Bourbon Street.

"By going and witnessing in New Orleans, God showed me the great need that people have to know the love of Jesus Christ; and the ability I have as a believer to share that love with them," said Bruce Mapp, a freshman from Potts Camp.

Jonathan Kirk, a sophomore from Belmont said, "Something that stuck out in my mind from the New Orleans trip this year was a conversation with a guy

that worked for one of the bars. This guy asked me lots of questions about why I was there. He was happy to know I wasn't there to judge people. It was very encouraging to me to see him excited that I was there to share God's love, not to judge the people out there."

Barrett Griffin, an NEMCC sophomore from Ripley said, "New Orleans is probably my favorite trip that the BSU has taken. It is an eye-opening trip. It makes me appreciate where I am from and how I was raised. It is a witness training field because there is such a diverse group of people there. I love it!"

Ashley Gardner, an NEMCC freshman from Tupelo, said, "There were so many people on Bourbon St with lost looks on their faces. It seemed like they were trying to fill a void in their lives with alcohol and strip clubs when truly they needed God to fill that void. That was what I think our mission was on this trip and, hopefully, we accomplished what we came to do."

Six people prayed to receive Christ as a result of this year's trip. The students who went have all testified to how God used this experience to change their lives. What was learned in the "laboratory" will be practiced on campus and throughout the rest of their lives.

Editor's note: Vandiver is BSU director at NEMCC. Mississippi BSU programs are supported by area churches, associations, funds raised by the students, and gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

**First Church, Bellevue, Hattiesburg: Revival, May 3-6; Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:15 a.m.; Sonny Adkins, New Hebron, speaker; Nick Davis, music.**

**First Church, Pecan Grove, Ellisville: Revival, Apr. 27-29; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; youth service, Sat., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Howard Peak, Crosby, speaker; Michael McKnight, Laurel, music.**

**Galilee Church, Puckett: Revival, May 6-9; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. nightly; Randall Creel, evangelist; Hosanna, music; for information, call (601) 825-7360 or 537-3767.**

**Kreole Ave. Church, Moss Point: Revival, May 6-9; Sun.,**

10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Scott McDowell, speaker and chalk artist.

**Liberty Hill Church, Poplar: Revival, Apr. 28-May 2; Sat., 7 p.m. with Soul'd Out Quartet in concert; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, speaker; Ken Lewis, music; Jay Anderson, pastor.**

**Neely Church, Greene Association: Revival, Apr. 29-May 2; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kevin Ivy, Moselle, speaker; Mark King, music; J.Wilbur Hall, pastor.**

**Paul Church, Tallahatchie County: Revival, Apr. 29-May 2; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Jackson, Kilmichael, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music.**

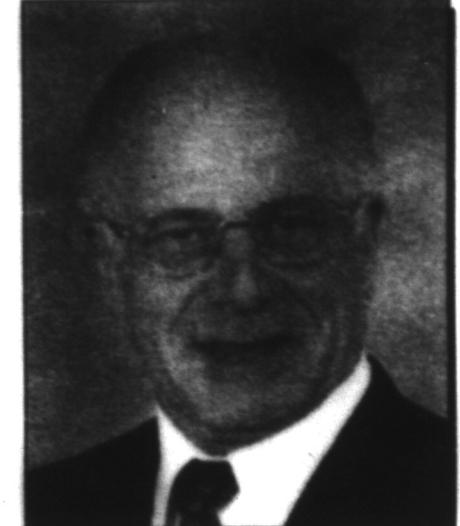
**New Hope Church, Meridian: Homecoming and 160th anniversary, May 20-23; Sun., worship at 10:30 a.m., followed by luncheon; former pastors and special music nightly. For information, call (601) 693-4490.**

**Oak Forest Church, Jackson: 50th anniversary, May 6; RSVP to rsvp2007@bellsouth.net or (601) 372-2021.**

**Pine Grove Church, Picayune: Revival, Apr. 29-May 2; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Clarence Cooper, speaker; Benji Rigney, music; Timothy Mims, pastor.**

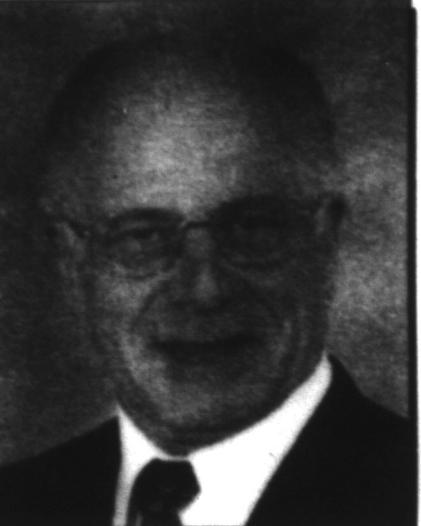
**Salem Church (Kellis' Store), Kemper County: Homecoming, May 6; singing, 10:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Jerry Jones, pastor.**

**Gene Balding, pastor of First Church, Russellville, Alabama recently announced his retirement after 37 years in the ministry. He has served as pastor at First Church, Russellville, Ala. for the past fourteen years and previously was pastor at Emmanuel Baptist in Tuscaloosa, Ala., 19th Avenue Baptist in Hattiesburg (1980-1985), Lakeview Baptist in Cave Springs, Ark., as well as several other churches while attending seminary. First Church, Russellville, will host a retirement reception for their retiring pastor on May 6 from 1-3 P.M. at the church. Balding will be available for supply and interim preaching in northwest Alabama. He also hosts yearly trips to the Holy Land. He may be reached by calling (256) 332-6632 or writing to 305 Tim Street, Russellville, AL 35653.**



Balding

## STAFF CHANGES



Young

## Bibliocipher

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MDLGLUIUH GDRAA

HUYUCIU LWU LV GJYD

YDCAXHUV CW EB

WREU, HUYUCIUKD EU;

RWX MDLGLUIUH GDRAA

HUYUCIU EU, HUYU-

CIUKD WLK EU, SJK DCE

KDRK GUWK EU.

ERHP WCWU: KDCHKB-

GUIW

Clue: W = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm Eleven: Four.

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Sandra Little  
Meridian  
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Michele Renee Pearson  
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601-482-6699



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Ed Perrett  
Jackson  
800-379-0992



James A. Rhea  
New Albany  
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## MS POSITIONS

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**BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC** needed. Send resume to Foxworth First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 45, Foxworth, MS 39483.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**1. Hall Recognized, Dumas Church, Dumas**



**2. RAs and GAs, Friendship Church, Golden Triangle Association**



**3. Bible Drillers, First Church, Kosciusko**



**4. Bible Drillers, First Church, Magnolia**

**1.** **Dumas Church, Dumas**, recognized Lillian Hall on her 100th birthday. She was presented a plaque and the church purchased 100 Gideon Bibles in her honor. Shown are Harold Garrison, Hall, and pastor Scott Hudson.

**2.** The RAs and GAs of **Friendship Church, Golden Triangle Association**, recently had a church-wide hot dog supper and raised over \$800.00 for Annie Armstrong offering. They also collected many items for the Baptist Children's Village. Shown are the participants.

**3.** **First Church, Kosciusko**, had 12 children participate in the state Bible drills in Starkville Apr. 17. Shown are the participants.

**4.** **First Church, Magnolia**, recognizes its Bible drillers. Front, Sean Rushing and Allen Lampton; back, Paulette Prescott.

**5.** **Mt. Zion Church, Columbus**, recognizes its children's Bible drillers who participated in the state drill Apr. 17. Shown are Bailey Beaird, Alexa Junkin, Skylar Pearson, Logan Bedsole, and Ashley Boyd.

**6.** **First Church, Greenwood**, recognizes its children and youth Bible drillers who were in the state drills at Immanuel Church, Grenada. Shown are the participants.

**7.** **Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto**, recognizes its participants in the state Bible drill in Brookhaven Apr. 12. Shown are Heater Crosby, Jesse Freeman, Adrienne Wallace, Alex Bui, and Rebekah Wright. Trent Bilbo, pastor.

**8.** **Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle**, will host the Stamps Quartet May 6, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

**9.** **Tuscola Church, Lena**, will honor Smith Sanders who has pastored the church for 40 years Apr. 29. 3 p.m. with a reception.

**10.** **Mashulaville Church Memorial at Mashulaville, Macon**, will be held May 6, 11 a.m. The Mashulaville School reunion will be held May 5 at Lake Tiak O'Khata.

**11.** **Clifton Church, Scott County**, will host a 5th Sunday singing Apr. 29, 6 p.m., with Marion Felton and family, Hazel Church, providing special music.



**5. Bible Drillers, Mt. Zion, Columbus**



**6. Children Bible Drillers, First Church, Greenwood**



**7. Youth Bible Drillers, First Church, Greenwood**



**7. Bible Drillers, Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto**



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



12. Wild Game Supper, First Church, Vicksburg



13. Youth Recognized, Oak Forest Church, Jackson



14. Bible Drillers, South McComb Church, McComb



15. Baby Dedication, Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah Association

14. **South McComb Church, McComb**, recognizes its Bible Drillers. Shown left to right, front row, are Drew Brown and Leah Bowlin. Back row: Noah Bowlin and Alex Brown.

15. **Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah Association**, held a baby dedication. Shown are Zack Haynie, baby Zyla Haynie, Jennifer Haynie, Lyndle Davis, Wesley Michael Seawright, Tiffany Seawright, Tye Seawright, and Justin Seawright.

16. **Cleary Church, Rankin Association**, recognizes its youth state Bible drillers. Shown, front, are Zack Chastain and Megin Forkin; back, Drew Dusenberry and Grant Jones.

17. **Antioch Church, House**, recognizes its youth Bible drillers. Kneeling, Leah Bishop, Rebekah Worrell, Brandy Talbert, Jamie Truhett, Megan McPherson, Brianna Moody, and Tiffany Dorman; standing, Eric McKinion, Ben Higginbotham, Philip Dallas, Adam Rigdon, Tyler Hardy, Chad Dorman.

18. **Slayden Church, Marshall Association**, dedicated their new balcony Mar. 25, which seats 80. David Bishop, pastor.

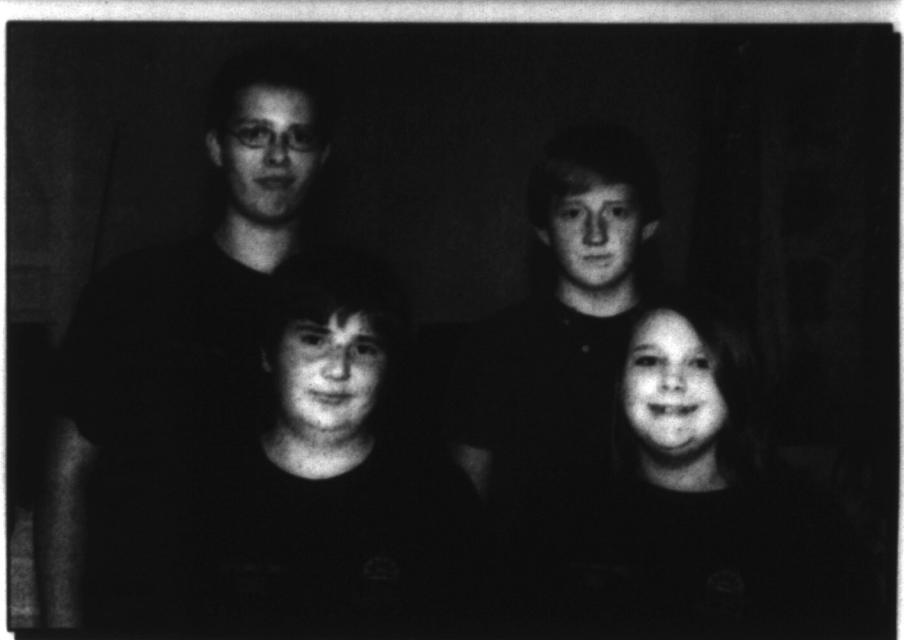
19. The children and youth of **Pilgrims Rest Church, Webster Association**, raised over \$400 selling cookies and bread for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

20. **Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City**, hosted a widow's luncheon Apr. 1. Participants included pastor Daryl Oster, Laura Oster, Stella Nail, Winnie Richards, Lois Kinnison, Edith Everett, Ruth Melton, Pat Stonestreet, Helen Cantrell, and Ruth White.

21. **Terry's Creek Church, Magnolia**, will host a wild game supper May 5, 6 p.m., with the program given by David Fortenberry and team. Bring a wild game dish; prizes awarded. Todd Sumrall, pastor.

22. **Concord Church, Booneville**, will host a 5th Sunday singing Apr. 29, 5 p.m., with the Holcomb Sisters as guests, followed by refreshments.

23. **Bexley Church, Lucedale**, will host their second annual women's conference May 5, 6 p.m. Speakers include Clarence Holcomb and Debbie Burton; music by Tia and Megan Hodges. Tickets,



16. Bible Drillers, Cleary Church, Rankin Association



17. Bible Drillers, Antioch Church, House



18. Balcony Dedication, Slayden Church, Marshall Association



20. Widow's Luncheon, Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City

which include dinner, are \$5. Order tickets from BBC Conference, P.O. Box 124,

Lucedale, MS, 39452 by May 1. For information, call (601) 508-9077.



1. Prayer Service for Virginia Tech, WCU

1. Matthew Warren of Derma, a **William Carey University** student leads students, faculty and staff in a prayer for students at Virginia Tech during a service held on Tuesday. Monies were contributed to purchase a condolence ad in the Virginia Tech student newspaper.
2. The **William Carey University** Piano Ensemble will perform a benefit concert April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus. All proceeds will benefit the Carey Institute of Fine Arts Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the door. For

more information call the Winters School of Music at (601) 318-6175.

2. **William Carey University** will hold commencement ceremonies May 11 and May 12 on the Hattiesburg and Gulfport campuses. Graduates in the School of Business, School of Education and School of Psychology and Counseling will receive master degrees at 7 p.m. Friday, May 11 in the Smith Auditorium in Hattiesburg. On Saturday, undergraduates in the School of Arts, Humanities and Sciences, Fall School of Nursing, and School of Psychology and Counseling

will receive bachelor degrees at 9:30 a.m. Undergraduates in the School of Business, School of Education, Winters School of Music and Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies will receive bachelor degrees at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 12 in the Smith Auditorium in Hattiesburg. The ceremony for WCU Gulfport students receiving undergraduate and graduate degrees will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 12 in the Smith Auditorium in Hattiesburg. Tommy King, president, and Cloyd Ezell, vice president of academic affairs, will preside at each ceremony. Students needing graduation information should contact the Registrar's Office at (601) 318-6195.

3. Camp W Carey, a mission's based camp for children entering grades 3 through 9, will take place June 11-15, 18-22, 25-29 and July 16-20 on the Hattiesburg campus of **William Carey University**. Campers will spend five days learning about missions in India and all over the third world while they participate in water games, ropes course activities, survivor themed events and much more. A mini week camp for children entering grades 1 through 6



2. Piano Ensemble to perform, WCU

will be held July 9-11 and 12-14. The cost for the mini week camps is \$125. The cost for the week-long camp is \$250. Children's ministers fees are the same as the camper fees. For more information call Charlene Allen at (601) 307-8600 or Cal249@bellsouth.net. Visit us at [www.campwcarey.org](http://www.campwcarey.org). Shown, standing left to right, are Camp W Carey staff Leslie Mims, Paula Stringer, Clark Mason, Michelle Mason (seated left to right) Melisa Mason, Sharon Thompson, Cindy Boswell,

Lisa Sproull, and Kandi Bass during one of the many training and planning sessions for the camp.



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3. Camp W Carey, WCU

**THE BAPTIST CHURCHES** in Lawrence County, Alabama (Muscle Shoals Baptist Association) are currently seeking resumes for the position of Director of Missions. The deadline for submission of resumes is April 30, 2007. Please send resumes to Muscle Shoals Baptist Association, P.O. Box 485, Moulton, AL 35650-0485.

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**LAWRENCEVILLE FIRST BAPTIST** Church is accepting resumes for a full-time Senior Pastor. We are located in Gwinnett County, Georgia. Please mail a resume, as well as a DVD, VCR or other media, to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 228, Lawrenceville, GA 30046-0028.

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**FOR SALE: TWELVE, 10 FT. PEWS**, five, 8 ft. pews, fully padded, red. Good condition, call (662) 837-9837.

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## WHO GETS MY VOTE?

**By Jimmy Porter**



Political billboards and yard signs are now mixed with blooming azaleas and camellias throughout our state. Candidates running for political office are seeking name recognition which hopefully will result in more votes later in the year.

These signs raise several questions: Why should I vote? For whom should I vote? How can my church be involved in the political process?

**WHY SHOULD I VOTE?** The amazing fact is that many choose not to vote. It is estimated that 35 percent of eligible Americans are not registered to vote. Less than 45 percent of evangelical Christians voted in the non-presidential election year of 2002.

The Bible teaches us to be responsible citizens which means participating in the voting process. Exodus 18:21, NIV provides an example for us, "Select capable men from all the people — men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens." Proverbs 29:2 (NKJV) states, "When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan." Samuel Adams once said, "Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote . . . that he is executing one of the most

solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."

**FOR WHOM SHOULD I VOTE?** The Rev. Billy Graham suggests that "if America is to survive, we must elect more God-centered men and women to public office — individuals who will seek Divine guidance in the affairs of the state."

Therefore, it is important that I become familiar with the candidates' position on matters that are important to me as a Christian. At first most candidates are persuasive and sound acceptable. If they are incumbents, check their voting record because it reveals their true feelings about the important issues.

To gain more in-depth information, your church or civic organization can legally host forums where all the candidates running for a particular office are invited and treated impartially. Voting records and candidate surveys are often available and are legal if the surveys comply with IRS' detailed rules on neutrality.

Voter guides are legal if the questions and surveys have been sent to all the candidates even though all may not have responded. The survey must be inclusive of all parties and it must state the facts without editorializing. Also, the survey must include a broad range of topics and not just those that relate to a particular ministry or church.

**HOW CAN MY CHURCH BE INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS?** The church can be a

part of the political process but it must take extreme caution not to violate the regulations imposed by the IRS code. The church, like any other non-profit organization, cannot give direct donations to a candidate, loan or rent out the church mailing list, endorse a candidate, or pass out a candidate's material or make donations to a political action committee or any other group that uses the funds to help elect or defeat a particular candidate.

The church can conduct non-partisan voter registration drives, host forums, and provide educational material that objectively conveys information on all the candidates' views on moral and cultural issues. Be careful that the material does not give an obvious endorsement to one candidate or party.

In "Why Christians Should Vote," Dr. James Dobson says, "We live in a representative form of government where we are its leaders. It means that every citizen has a responsibility to participate in the decisions that are made, and that includes people of faith using their influence for what is moral and just." This year cast an intelligent vote based on values derived from your study and understanding of God's Word. If the Christian Action Commission can be of any assistance to you, please call us at 601-292-3329. Now let the politicking begin!

*Jimmy Porter is executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.*

## COLLEGE NEWS



5. Porter receives award, MC

4. A William Carey University Art Exhibit featuring works by students, faculty and staff will open April 19 and run through May 4 in the Lucile Parker Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus. The opening reception will be held on April 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. The exhibit is open free of charge to the public. The gallery is open from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information call (601) 318-6192.
5. The Byrd Memorial Preaching Award is a cash award presented annually by the family of the late Mr. and Mrs. David Q. Byrd, Sr., loyal supporters of Mississippi College since 1930. The award is presented annually by the family to the student who submits the winning expository sermon as adjudicated by a committee consisting of the chairman of the MC Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy, an MC English professor, an MC Communication professor, an MC student, and the Pastor of First Church, Clinton. Recipient of the 2007 Byrd Memorial Preaching Award was Chase Porter, a sophomore seeking a major in Christian Studies and Philosophy. He is the son of Mark and Donna Porter of Picayune, Mississippi. Shown from the left are Harrell Byrd, presenting the award; Chase Porter, award recipient; and Wayne VanHorn, Interim Dean for the School of Christian Studies and the Arts.

## Church arsonists sentenced in Al.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP and local reports) — Three college-age men were sentenced April 9 to seven to eight years in federal prison for setting fire to several Alabama rural Baptist churches last year.

Matthew Cloyd, age 21, and Benjamin Moseley, age 20, were sentenced to eight years in prison, while Russell DeBusk, age 20, was sentenced to seven years, The Birmingham News reported.

Nine Baptist churches were burned in February 2006 — five on one night, four on another. Because several of the church arsons took place near the Alabama-Mississippi state line, a number of Mississippi Baptist churches were reported to have taken measures to step up security. However, the three men apparently did not cross into Mississippi during their crime spree.

Cloyd and Moseley were sentenced for their role in all nine blazes; DeBusk was sentenced for his involvement in the first five fires. The three men pled guilty in December.

U.S. District Judge David Proctor also ordered the men to pay \$3.1 million in restitution and to do community service. A mandatory sentence of

at least seven years kicked in because two firefighters were injured in one of the blazes.

"You harmed a lot of people, but with God's grace you have... opportunity to do good still," Proctor told them, according to the News.

DeBusk told the court the fires were set after a night of drinking. A "snowball effect" then took place, where the men wanted to set fire to more and more churches, the News reported him as saying. He told of being "absolutely petrified" at what had happened after he became sober. All three apologized for their actions.

"I'm ready to accept the consequences of my actions and move forward, your honor," Cloyd said.

After the first five fires were set, Cloyd and Moseley set four more churches on fire in another part of the state in an attempt to throw off law enforcement officials, The New York Times said.

The three still face state charges.

Walter Hawkins, pastor of Dansby Church — whose building was burned — urged forgiveness.

"We love them," Hawkins said, according to the News. "The Bible teaches us about forgiveness. If we don't forgive, our heavenly Father will not forgive us for our trespasses."





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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor with taste and respect those who are and have been special to our special friends.

APRIL 9-22, 2007

### HONORS

**Children at BCV**  
Living Faith SSC, FBC - Cleveland  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil E. Washington  
**Kelly Bates**  
Eddie Flory  
Keidra King  
Opal King  
Carolyn Calledge  
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey L. Hays  
**Gerald C. Gary**  
Golden Living Center - Eupora Staff  
**Coach Zane Hale**  
Jennifer Hale  
Joel & Shirley Hale  
Scott & Harriet Neal Family  
**Mr. Bill Hayden**  
Mark & Sara Hayden  
**Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Liles**  
Dr. Joe Lovelady's SSC,  
N Oxford BC  
**Edna Miller**  
Dr. & Mrs. Theodore C. Miller  
**Billy & Charlie Montgomery**  
Jennifer Hale  
Joel & Shirley Hale  
Scott & Harriet Neal Family  
**Helen Odion**  
Elsie Crossley SSC, FBC - Columbus  
**Ruth Williamson**  
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Butler

### MEMORIALS

**Frank Aldy**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
**Mrs. Elizabeth Alford**  
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Brewer  
**Ernest Allen**  
Mr. & Mrs. Max Keller  
**Mrs. Sue Amos**  
Ernestine Amos, Biddy & Elisabeth  
**Shane Arnold**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
**William Wade Aycock, Jr.**  
Mrs. Joyce C. Aycock  
**Ardell Mitchell Bales**  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick N. Conerly  
**Jean Ainsworth Barber**  
Mrs. Rachel C. Browning  
**Michael Barnes**  
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Travis Jr.  
**Mr. L. M. (Maxie) Barnett**  
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Barnett  
Valley Park Baptist Church  
Mrs. Addie M. Holloway  
Billy & Carolyn Warren  
Anna & Rodney Warren  
**Donnie Berry**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Cashatt  
**Mr. Martin D. Blanton**  
Miss Alva Merle Blanton  
**Mrs. Mildred Boisture**  
Mrs. Mary C. Timmons  
**Joyce Bounds**  
Jo & Jimmie Smithey

**Sam Brand, Sr.**  
Mrs. Betty Jo Schmidt  
**Mrs. Arnold Brasier**  
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**Winnie Broom**  
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Mary Allen & Ric Varnell  
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Mike & Susie Daughdrill  
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Mrs. Billie Lynn Arthur  
**Mrs. Verna Wade Cook**  
Lucy Fowler Sunday School Class  
**Verna W. Cook**  
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Switzer  
**Mr. W. C. Cox**  
Deer Creek Baptist Church  
Gene & Judy Boykin  
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Barnett  
**Mrs. Elizabeth Cox**  
Ms. Inez B. Thornhill  
**Kathryn Crawford**  
Mrs. Rachel C. Browning  
**Charles Cummings**  
Mrs. Rachel C. Browning  
**Kathy Jordan Dale**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
**Tucker Clay Daves**  
Mrs. J. T. Morrison  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry O'Neal Jr.  
Corrie & Nicholas O'Neal  
**Mrs. Dorothy Dean**  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis L. Whitfield  
Mrs. Birtie M. Kennedy  
**Dovie Deen**  
Eddie & Delia Speights  
**Mr. R. W. Dees**  
Mrs. Mary Y. Womack  
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs  
**Mr. O. S. Denham**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy R. Barnett  
**Mrs. Rachel Denton**  
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Phillips  
**Wayne Denton**  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Speed  
**Heyward Dillard**  
Jo & Jimmie Smithey  
**Martha P. Douglas**  
Dr. & Mrs. Fred E. Tatum  
**Mrs. Vetta Lowery Duff**  
Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Sledge  
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram  
**Judge Dunn**  
Jo & Jimmie Smithey  
**Mr. O. P. Ellis**

**Mr. & Mrs. Sam M. Brand**  
James Curtis Evans  
**Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Hodnett**  
Mrs. Martha Farmer  
**Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan**  
**Wesley Farmer**  
Jerry & Janie Sisco  
**Ray Felton**  
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Mitchell  
**Myrna Ferguson**  
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**Arizona Freeman**  
Paula's Hair Care  
Friday Morning Friends  
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**Maurice Galey**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wood  
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First Baptist Church-New Augusta  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert E. Garner  
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Mr. & Mrs. Alton Brewer  
**Geneva Gardner**  
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**Mrs. Louella Garner**  
Mr. & Mrs. Wallera A. Clay  
**Mr. James Bruno "Tee" Gibbs**  
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**Mr. William Earl Gibson, Sr.**  
Mr. Mark Scobey  
**Mack Henry Gilbert**  
Eddie Flory  
Keidra King  
Opal King  
**Mr. Jim Goudeau**  
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**John Hodges**  
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Mike & Mary Curtis  
Sylvia Ward  
Sue Worthy  
Sue & Tolman Morford  
**Nan C. Hollingsworth**  
Mrs. Polly Morrison Frazier  
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Friendship SSC, FBC - Starkville

**Lauren & Wade Thompson**  
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**Mr. & Mrs. Barry P. Catelin**  
Philip E. Catelin  
Rebecca B. Catelin  
**Mr. Jimmy Horton**  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
**Mrs. Lucille Johnson**  
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Mrs. Virginia S. Marcus  
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**Mr. Mitchell Marler**  
Spring Hill Baptist Church  
**Uncle Marvin**  
The Russell Barnett Family  
**Sidney Massey**  
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Wilkins, Stephens & Tipton, P.A.  
Brendi Davis  
Lisa & Grant Noe  
Jessica & Danny Ruth  
**Mr. Anthony Montecino**  
Spring Hill Baptist Church  
**Earlene Montgomery**  
Jennifer Hale  
Joel & Shirley Hale  
Scott & Harriet Neal Family  
**Matthew Mooney**  
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Mr. & Mrs. James L. Travis Jr.  
**Mr. Douglas Norsworthy**  
Ms. Martha G. Ferguson  
**Terry Ott**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
**Irene B. Perry**  
Ms. Nancy Carol Gardner  
**Mr. Billy Pigott**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy R. Barnett  
**Grady Porter**  
Ms. Rae Flynt  
**Ruth Poylettess**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy R. Barnett

# Happy Birthday to the BCV!

May 12, 2007

The Baptist Children's Village is celebrating 110 years of ministry to Mississippi children. With the help of friends all over Mississippi and beyond, staff on five BCV campuses continue to provide a safe place for nearly 300 Mississippi children every year.

### Celebrate with us ...

- Plan a BCV birthday party at your church, school or with your civic group.
- Choose a gift(s) from the BCV birthday wish list:
  - Digital Camera for a campus (we need 5)
  - NLT Bibles
  - Frisbees
  - Softballs, Bats, Gloves (for teens)
  - Basketballs, Soccer Balls, Kickballs, Footballs
  - Paper Plates/Cups/Plasticware for Activities

### - Gift Cards for Restaurants, Blockbuster, Wal-Mart

### - Gift Cards for Old Navy, J.C. Penney, Belk

### - Movie Passes

- Send a gift in honor or memory of a special person
- Send a gift in honor of 110 Years of Ministry
- Send us a digital photo and short paragraph letting us know about the party.
- Watch the News and Events at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com) for your picture.



# BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## Steadfast Faithfulness

John 15:18-16:4

By Angie Boydston

How do you think it feels to be persecuted? I mean really persecuted. — beaten, tortured, thrown in jail or even killed for our faith. In our comfortable southern Bible belt existence, we do not know the depths of real persecution. Nevertheless, we have Christian brothers and sisters around the world who do.

More Christians died for their faith in the 20th century than in all previous centuries combined. And, the 21st century has not begun more favorably. As Americans, we do not generally experience the extremes of hatred and persecution. But we can all agree that even our own nation is becoming more hostile and antagonistic toward Christians and Christians' beliefs.



Boydston

The Bible, in John 15, gives a clear explanation of why Christians face persecution. Because the world hated Jesus and His Father, it will hate His followers. Believers experience hate from the world because of our faith and obedience to Jesus. In fact, we should draw comfort from knowing that such experiences affirm our association with Jesus.

In verse 18 of Chapter 15, Jesus tells His disciples the world will hate them because it hated Him first. Their relationship with Him was the catalyst for such hatred. Friendship with God results in enduring the world's hatred. The "world" mentioned in John's gospel is the system of organized society, hostile to God and under Satan's power. Believers should not be

surprised by this hostility. Jesus was hated from birth (remember King Herod?) to His death on the cross.

We should anticipate the world's view of us. Verse 19 tells us that we would feel differently if Jesus had not chosen us to be His own. As believers, our essential being comes from our new life in Christ; therefore, we are not the same as the world. So then, we must be in conflict with it.

The world will always hate what is different. Believers, having been separated from the world, have a different joy, purpose, and hope. We have truth and certainty. We do not belong to the world and it will always hate us for that.

Jesus goes on to make it clear that we will not face anything He has not experienced before us. Verses 20 through 25 tell us the basic reason for the treatment of believers. Christians are chosen by the Father and are not of the world. The world is ignorant and chooses to reject the Father.

Their rejection of Jesus, who had come to save them all, left the world completely guilty. He came to show them there was a way to the Father. They chose to reject Him and therefore He says they "have no excuse." Those of the world would rather hate Him and the Father instead of believing.

Jesus says in verses 26 and 27 not to let any hatred or persecution stop our testifying about Him. In the face of opposition and hatred, we might be tempted to try to isolate ourselves from the world. Even as the disciples had to be strong, so must we. Every generation needs a witness to the Father, regardless of obstacles the world puts in our path.

Despite the sense we might get from the world, Christians are never alone when bearing testimony. It is our testimony and we are responsible for sharing it, just as Jesus told the disciples to do in verse 27. The good news from verse 26 is that the Father has sent the Counselor to join us in testifying. We should

be encouraged and emboldened by Jesus' promise of the Spirit's work in the world.

Chapter 16 begins with Jesus telling the disciples to be prepared for the persecution that will come. He told them His warning was so they would remain steadfast and faithful regardless of what happened to them. In verse 2, He says they may be put out of the synagogue or even killed by religious people who mistakenly think they are doing a service to God.

What are we prepared for? What will be our response when persecution comes?

If the last century is any indication, believers can realize that Jesus' words are not just a message for these disciples as He prepares to leave them. We in the 21st century need to be ready to remain steadfast and faithful in the face of worldly antagonism.

**Boydston** is Preschool and Children's consultant in the Sunday School Dept., MBCB, and a member of Pinelake Church, Brandon.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Act with Humility

1 Peter 5:1-14

By Ivan Parke

1 Peter 4 ends with a prepositional phrase, "in doing what is right." The "therefore" in 5:1 connects that prepositional phrase to final instructions (5:1-10). A doxology (5:11) precedes the conclusion (5:12-14) of the letter.

#### 1. Leaders of the Church: Do What Is Right.

In verses 1-5, Greek adjectives, translated "elder" or "fellow elder," occur three times. In the Early Church, according to the New Testament, "elder" was a title of authority (e.g., Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 5:17; Jas. 5:14). The Apostle Paul twice used "elder" and "overseer" — another title — interchangeably. For example, he had charged the elders who served the church at Ephesus, "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of



Parke

God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28; see also Tit. 1:5-9).

Referring to himself as "fellow elder" (v. 1), Peter pulled rank. He cited two credentials: [a] "[eye]witness of the sufferings of Christ" and [b] "partaker ... of the glory that is to be revealed" (see also 4:13). Then, in verse 2, he decreed, "Shepherd the flock of God among you." The Greek verb, translated "shepherd," has been rendered "tend" (RSV) or "feed" (KJV).

"Shepherd" is a metaphor as old as the Old Testament (e.g., Ps. 23; Is. 40:10-11; Jer. 3:15). In John 10, Jesus identified Himself as the "Good Shepherd" (see also 2:25), the reason being some shepherds were bad (see Jer. 10:21; Ezek. 34:1-24). Some congregational leaders are also bad: i.e., "exercising oversight ... under compulsion ... for sordid gain

... lording it over those allotted to [their] charge" (vv. 2-3). Hence, Peter emphasized a proper attitude ("willing" NIV), motive ("eager to serve" NIV), and behavior ("examples to the flock"). The root of the Greek noun, translated "example," designated a hit that leaves a mark or impression.

As a former pastor, I referred to 1 Peter 5:1-4 as my job description. It reminded me to lead — never to lord over — God's flock (NOT my flock). In Birmingham, Alabama, God had called me to be a shepherd, not a CEO.

In verse 5, Peter, a seasoned leader, upheld everyone "exercising oversight" (v. 2). The verb "exercising oversight" (Gk. episkopeo) and the noun "overseer" (Gk. episkopos) are related words. Peter singled out "younger men," instructing them to be submissive. He knew firsthand how brash young males could be. Years earlier, near Caesarea-Philippi, Peter had rebuked Jesus (Mk.

8:27-33). The greatest threat to any leader is an underling who yearns for power.

#### 2. Followers of God: Do What Is Right.

The theme "humility" ties verses 6-11 to verse 5. In verse 5, Peter quoted Proverbs 3:34. In verse 6, he paraphrased Jesus (e.g., Lk. 14:11). A believer can manifest humility in three distinct ways: [a] acknowledging an utter dependency upon God (v. 7; see also Ps. 55:22; Mt. 6:25-34; Phil. 4:6-7); [b] alert to the devil as a formidable foe (vv. 8-9a); and [c] accepting suffering (vv. 9b-10).

In verse 7, the Greek verb, translated "cast," is a participle, thus conveying continuous action. Its direct object, "ALL anxiety," suggests that none of us can handle ONE anxiety without God. Frank Stagg explained, "Anxiety is distraction, being 'pulled apart' or 'going to pieces'" ("Philippians," The Broadman Bible Commentary, 213).

In verses 8-9a, Peter depicted the devil uniquely: "prowls around like a ... lion" (simile). Elsewhere, the Scriptures portray Satan as a "dragon" (e.g.,

Rev. 12:3-4) or a "serpent" (e.g., 2 Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9). Two participles, "roaring" and "seeking," underscore how active the adversary is. Consequently, Peter issued three commands: [a] "be sober" (KJV — see also 1:13; 4:7), [b] "be vigilant" (KJV), and [c] "resist" (see also Jas. 4:7).

In verses 9b-10, Peter encouraged sufferers. They do not suffer alone. They will not suffer long ("little while"). God will compensate them.

Unlike Paul's letters, just three names appear at the end of 1 Peter: [a] Silvanus/Silas (v. 12), [b] "she who is in Babylon" (v. 13), and [c] Mark (v. 13). Silas was Peter's secretary. He had accompanied Paul on the second missionary journey (Acts 15:40-18:22). "She who is in Babylon" likely refers to the church at Rome. For feminine references to the Church, see 2 John 1 and Revelation 19:7-9. Mark, the beloved associate ("my son") of Peter, eventually wrote a gospel (see also Acts 12:25-13:13).

**Parke** is Associate Professor, Dept. of Christian Studies and Philosophy, MC, and a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

# THE BAPTIST Record

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

Photograph attachments are permissible. Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either a) e-mail, b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbc.org.

# Moms & daughters bond, study Bible at Garaywa

By Erica Harms  
Correspondent

As comfortable spring winds blew across the mossy trees throughout Camp Garaywa in Clinton, approximately 250 moms and their first through sixth grade daughters took advantage of the weather and a chance to bond with each other at an overnight camping experience.

Upon entering the gates of Camp Garaywa, the moms and daughters were "In the Spotlight," the theme for the Girls in Action (GA) Mother-Daughter Weekend and the 2007 camping season. Using Psalm 67:1-2 as the theme verse, each person was challenged to realize that not only did Jesus come as the light of the world, but He has also given them the task of shining for Him all around the world.

"The neatest thing about Mother-Daughter Weekends is to see moms

and daughters worshipping together, playing together, and having a quiet time together," said Robin Keels, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (wMu) consultant and coordinator of the weekends.

On Friday evening, moms and daughters teamed up with their cabin mates to compete in the spotlight with a game of charades. Attendees then had a time of worship around the campfire, concluding with a round of smores chocolate and marshmallow cookie treats.

"I love to see the moms playing and singing with their girls, but most importantly reading the Bible with their girls. The girls look up to their moms so much," said Katie Welch, a unit leader for the summer camping program.

"In today's world, life is so busy, but for one weekend everything can

slow down and the focus of each mom and daughter is only on Christ and each other," said Jenn Ingram, also a 2007 unit leader.

Visits from a missionary serving in the Pacific Rim whose name is being withheld for security reasons, as well as Karen Gray and her daughter Katie, serving in Brazil, were among the weekend activities.

"Seeing the girls playing games with their mothers and sharing devotion time is so heartwarming. I absolutely love to encourage kids to begin to think of themselves as missionaries at an early age. If they can adopt a missions-minded attitude now, just think what they will do in the future."

"They are so positive and sensitive to things of the Lord and are so eager to learn and ask questions," Karen Gray said.

According to Keels, weekends like these serve as an opportunity to put missions right in front of the girls in a 24-hour time period. In the midst of learning about and giving to missions, these mothers and daughters also experienced a time of recreation, crafts, and worship.

With its increasing popularity, Camp Garaywa now hosts three Mother-Daughter Weekends each year. Future Mother-Daughter Weekends are scheduled for Sept. 21-22 and Oct. 19-20. The weekends are supported by fees and by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

For more information, contact Keels in the wMu office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3322, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 322. E-mail: rkeels@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbc.org.



## Va. Tech shooting claims Baptist students

BLACKSBURG, Va. (compiled from BP articles) — There were at least four Baptist victims in the April 16 massacre at the Blacksburg, Va., campus of Virginia Tech University, the worst mass shooting in U.S. history.

Graduate student Brian Bluhm was gunned down by fellow Virginia Tech student Cho Seung-Hui, as were senior Jarrett Lane, junior Nicole White, and freshmen Rachel Hill and Lauren McCain.

In addition, Austin Cloyd, a freshman majoring in international studies, was a member of First United Methodist Church in Champaign, Ill., before moving to Blacksburg, where her father is an accounting professor at Virginia Tech. A receptionist at Blacksburg Church confirmed to Baptist Press that Cloyd was the granddaughter of one of their church members.

Bluhm was just weeks away from graduating with a master's degree in water resources after also earning an undergraduate degree in civil engineering at Virginia Tech. He was attending a class in advanced hydrology in Norris Hall when he was killed.

Mark Appleton, associate Baptist Collegiate Ministries

(BCM) director at Virginia Tech and a Mission Service Corps missionary with the North American Mission Board, said Brian "was very active at the BCM as an undergraduate but as a graduate student we didn't see him as much. But everyone knew him."

The BCM center became an oasis of prayer, grief, sharing, and peace at when Appleton opened the facility to any students who needed a place to come. More than 300 students — mostly Southern Baptists and members of Campus Crusade for Christ — came by.

Lane belonged to First Church in Narrows, Va. "He was here every Sunday. This past Sunday he even took up the collection. He was one of the ushers," church secretary John Sheally told Baptist Press. Lane was valedictorian of his high school class and a standout athlete.

White was a junior majoring in international studies and a member of Nansemond River Church in Suffolk, Va. She was in a German class in Norris Hall when the shooting began.

In high school, White served as an emergency medical technician with the Smithfield Volunteer Rescue Squad and was a lifeguard

and swimming instructor at the local YMCA. In Blacksburg, she volunteered at an animal shelter and at a battered women's shelter.

Hill was attending a French class at Norris Hall when she was cut down by the gunman. Hill graduated in 2006 from Grove Avenue Christian School, a ministry of Grove Avenue Church in Richmond, Va.

"Rachael was an incredible witness for Christ, the love of Christ shone through her to others," Clay Fogler, the school's administrator, wrote in an e-mail to Baptist Press. She was a star athlete, Fogler said, and plans are underway to retire her jersey number.

McCain, a freshman international studies major, was a member of Restoration Church Phoebe in Hampton. She was an active member of Campus Crusade for Christ and named Jesus Christ and her brother Joel as two of her heroes on her MySpace webpage. On her MySpace.com page, McCain had written about the certainty of her faith.

"I don't have to argue religion, philosophy or historical evidence," she wrote, according to the Daily Press, "because I KNOW him."

## Homosexuals see advances

SALEM, Ore. (BP) — The Oregon House of Representatives on April 17 passed a domestic partnerships bill granting same-sex couples the legal benefits of marriage, continuing a recent trend of victories by homosexual activists in state legislatures. The bill, H.B. 2007, passed the House by a vote of 34-26 and now goes on to the Senate. Both chambers are controlled by Democrats. Gov. Ted Kulongoski, a Democrat, has said he will sign it, The Oregonian reported. "It is incomprehensible to me that in the year 2007, in this great state, that we should be having to debate civil rights and equal protection for all Oregonians," Rep. Brad Witt, a Democrat and a bill supporter, said, according to the newspaper. Meanwhile, the Dutch Supreme Court has told Aruba it must recognize homosexual marriages performed in the Netherlands, Agence France-Presse reported. Aruba, located off the coast of Venezuela in northern South America, is a self-governing member of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and had refused to recognize the license of a lesbian couple who had moved to the island. The Netherlands has recognized homosexual marriage since 2001. Aruba, though, is considerably more conservative. The Oregon bill, which would give homosexual couples all the state legal benefits of marriage, is but the latest victory for same-sex activists on the state level:

- New Hampshire's House passed a bill on April 4 legalizing same-sex civil unions, which are identical to Oregon's domestic partnerships, but with a different name. It is now before the state Senate.

- Washington state's House passed a bill on April 10 legalizing domestic partnerships. It previously had passed the Senate. Democratic Gov. Chris Gregoire has indicated she would sign the bill, which would grant many, but not all, of marriage's legal benefits.

- A Connecticut legislative committee passed a bill April 12 that would legalize homosexual marriage. It now goes to the state House.

Christian conservatives say the nationwide trend is another example of the breakdown of the natural, traditional family and could impact every avenue of life.